

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

PHIL. A. HAFNER, PUBLISHER

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STEPHENS vs. DOCKERY.
Ex-Gov. Lon V. Stephens is doing a great deal of fussing these days against the "powers that be" in Missouri. He criticizes the State administration, the St. Louis combine, and the whole outfit. He says they are trying to deliver the Democratic party of Missouri over to the gold bugs, and insists that another "Pettie Springs" convention should be held to clear the party of bootlickers and traitors.

In all this we agree with the ex-governor, but it seems that Mr. Stephens should be last to complain. No change has taken place in our political system since the retirement of Mr. Stephens. Either he was negligent and ignorant, or else he willfully approved of the infamous measures that make existing conditions possible, and put some political power into the hands of one man—the governor. The ballot-box stuffing in St. Louis in November, 1900, was no less under Gov. Stephens than it was under Gov. Dockery in the following April! At both elections the rights of the people were trampled under foot by the appointees of the governor! Rolla Wells, the so-called Democratic Mayor of St. Louis, in his answer to Messrs. Parker and Merriweather who had instituted contest proceedings, alleged that 96,000 fraudulent and illegal votes were cast at the April election. If such fraud was committed—as the Democrat himself alleges—who is responsible for it? The governor appoints the election and police commissioners. The election commissioners appoint the judges and clerks of election, and the police commissioners appoint the police whose duty it is to see that the people's rights are preserved.

Under such conditions it is possible to charge the fraud to any party except the one in power? And what are we to say about the supreme court that enjoined the circuit court of St. Louis from opening the ballot boxes and making a comparison with the registration list so that the fraud might be detected? Talk about "government by injunction" in Democratic platforms and then a so-called Democratic supreme court seals up stuffed ballot boxes tighter than Dick's hat band by injunction! Consistent, eh? It reminds one of our State convention denouncing the influences of trusts and corporations and then selecting Bill Phelps as a delegate at large to the National Democratic convention!

In an interview in the St. Louis Chronicle of September 9, in answer to the question whether or not he and Gov. Dockery were on good terms, ex-Gov. Stephens replied: "Well, I don't believe Mr. Dockery likes me. I tried to be a friend to him, but he wouldn't let me. Dockery leans toward the gold standard and his stand is well known."

So Mr. Stephens "tried to be a friend" and Mr. Dockery wouldn't let him. How ungrateful! The architect who built up the "machine" is the first to be run over by it. If it is "well known" that Gov. Dockery "leans toward the gold standard," then why was not Mr. Stephens honest enough to let the people know of it before his (Dockery's) nomination and election? That Mr. Stephens knew of it is proven from the following letter to Chas. W. Green, of Brookfield, Mo., dated Dec. 15, 1900—only a short time after the election. It reads:

"You were one of the first editors to come out for Mr. Dockery. Your paper coming out in the formative period so strongly for him was of great benefit to him, and I am sure he can not but feel grateful to you for your support. And our people made silver the paramount issue in Missouri his nomination would have been a dangerous one. As it was you will notice that his position, or supposed position, on this question, proved very hurtful to him throughout the State. Had it not been for our fine organization in St. Louis, there is no telling just what would have been the result of the election. Please believe me, with best wishes, your friend, LOX V. STEPHENS."

So it will be seen from this letter that Mr. Stephens knew of Mr. Dockery's "position, or supposed position" on silver. Why did he not let the people know it? Why was it that he "tried to be a friend" to Dockery? And it will be noticed that Mr. Stephens also makes special mention of "our fine organization in St. Louis," and admits that without this "fine organization" there is "no telling what would have been the result of the election."

Now that the ex-governor has no more "pie" to distribute among its members, this "fine organization" has kicked him overboard, and he is not satisfied with the treatment he so richly deserves.

The man who makes the biggest noise in the world isn't always the one who gets the money. While the motorman bangs the gong it is the conductor who quietly takes in the tickets.

NOT ON RECORD.

"We will state here and now, and make affidavit to it if demanded, that never have we, during our thirteen years of newspaper ownership sold out to any man or set of men—and any intimation or charge to the contrary is a lie pure and simple."—Benton Record.

The Kicker man had seen nothing in any of the newspapers to warrant such an emphatic denial, and was much surprised at its appearance. However, believing that "where there is smoke there must be fire," he struck a "B" line for the recorder's office and began plowing through the records.

"What are you looking for?" demanded the recorder.

"Looking for the records of 1890. Want to see if there was any conveyance from Smith to Walker?"

"Smith to Walker? What do you mean?"

"Why, in his last issue Mr. Smith says he never 'sold out to any man or set of men,' and in 1890 you know he supported Walker for congress as against his 'home man,' Arnold, and I just wanted to look the matter up."

Here the recorder grabbed the Kicker man by the nap of the neck and seat of the pants and pitched him out at the window, and as he did so, shouted: "Don't you know they don't put things like that on record?"

Now, seriously speaking, there are other ways of influencing a man besides taking him in a dark alley and clubbing him over the head. On the witness stand Sam Cook admitted that public service corporations, through their "attorneys" contributed the slush fund for the Democratic campaign in this State, but denied that there was any "understanding." However, he had to admit and it was proven by others, that the very corporations that contributed the money received favorable legislation!

Perhaps, since the organization of the State, nothing so startling has been brought out as the developments in the Cardwell case. Every taxpayer—every citizen of Missouri—was interested in the testimony given in that case. Yet not a line of it appeared in any organ of the State administration! Will Mr. Smith please answer why? Is it because they have an eye on the "appropriation" next winter?

Land pirates all over Southeast Missouri are grabbing up public lands to which they have no right. Is there a single newspaper or public official protesting? No. On the contrary the newspapers applaud the land pirate as a "leading citizen" who "develops the country," while the public officials go to Jefferson City and lobby and vote to pass a law to "quiet titles!"

Yes, this is the "enlightened age," in which a man can take his choice—steal or starve.

ONLY A SLIGHT ERROR.

"The Kicker, Phil. Hafner's paper at Benton, tells all about the nomination of Senator Marshall in 1900; how the 'trick' was turned" by the politicians, etc. It is interesting, and will do to keep for future reference, say in the campaign of 1904. But the Kicker errs a little when it says New Madrid county held a "mass convention." A township convention was held, but only three weeks' notice was given. A mass convention was wanted, but some of the committee objected too strongly. —New Madrid Southeast Missourian.

Yes, that's so. A "mass convention" was wanted, and when that was denied they instituted a "still hunt" and after the county delegates arrived at New Madrid they held one of those "harmonious" meetings in which there could be no friction. Only the "right sort" of men were chosen as delegates to the Senatorial convention and no attempt was made to instruct them. The ringsters knew that these "delegates" were uncompromising Marshall men, while the farmers had confidence in them and thought they would do what was best for all.

Now, will Bro. Waters please inform the public who it was that attended the Bloomfield convention to represent New Madrid county in 1900?

TIM HOSMER has sold the Bloomfield Enterprise to Manning Phelan and the name of the paper has been changed to Stoddard County Guard. The new paper is well edited and newsworthy. Mr. Hosmer made the mistake of trying to run a country newspaper in the interest of the people and in opposition to the usual "unprincipled ring" that seems to exist in every county. In retiring Mr. Hosmer says:

"We have no excuse or apology to offer for having sold out. We have had a hard fight since we have been here, but do not consider that we have come out of it second best. We espoused the cause of the people against an unprincipled ring who were defrauding the county and school funds out of thousands of acres of land. The title to this land have long been in dispute, but no paper in the county would inform the people of the record of these cases until we came here. Now that the question is in the courts with a fair probability of an early settlement, our work in that line is over. We can do nothing further towards securing a settlement of the question."

BECOMING AN EYE SORE.

"We have no objection to any of our exchanges extending their support to Mr. Vandiver for re-election if they see proper, but we do think that other men like J. J. Russell, H. N. Phillips, Marsh Arnold, Judge Evans, Ralph Wammack, Tom Ely, Senator Orchard, and many others who have for the last decade borne the brunt of the fight for democracy in this congressional district, while Mr. Vandiver was drawing a comfortable salary as president of the Cape Normal (his politics an unknown quantity to the people of the district) are entitled to some consideration. To those men are, in a large measure, due the splendid democratic majority, rolled up year by year, in the Southeast counties. Most of those men have had very little return for their services to the party."

The above has been going the rounds of the Russell organs until it has become an eye-sore. From it one would judge that the gentlemen mentioned had been officially ignored. Yet it seems that none have been awarded "over the hill to the poor house." If there has been a time in the past twenty years when Mr. Russell did not hold an office of some kind—either elective or appointive—it was not for any great length of time. He started out as school commissioner of his county, was next elected prosecuting attorney, and later represented Mississippi county in the Missouri legislature and was elected Speaker of the House. At the present time he is brigadier-general of the National Guard of Missouri. What pay there is in the latter office the writer does not know, but the reward for appointive office is usually greater than the services rendered. But money is not what Mr. Russell is after. He has plenty of that. It's honor he wants—and there ought to be enough in his present position to satisfy any ordinary man.

Nat Phillips has not been so successful in getting office, yet he has not suffered. He has been awarded some very handsome fees for attending to "land matters" and political influence often helps an attorney wonderfully in such cases.

Judge Evans has been almost a continuous office holder since shortly after he was admitted to the bar in 1875, and now holds the position of judge of the twentieth judicial circuit. Nor has Marsh Arnold been neglected. He served as prosecuting attorney of Scott county; represented the county in the Missouri legislature and served the district in Congress. Besides this he has held minor positions of honor.

Tom Ely has not been so fortunate in office holding. Nor has he spent very much time in bearing the "brunt of the fight." He is one of those fellows who had "some doubt" about 16 to 1. He is quite wealthy and his campaigning is of the gum shoe variety. It is generally done in the interest of Tom Ely.

Ralph Wammack is a young lawyer who has served the people of Stoddard county as prosecuting attorney and is little known beyond the borders of his county.

Senator Orchard has held office as county clerk, circuit clerk, probate judge and prosecuting attorney. Now he represents the twenty-second senatorial district in the Missouri senate, and it is said that he makes it "pay." Shortly before the last legislature adjourned the press dispatches announced that Senator Orchard went home ten days before adjournment and took with him the bill introduced to repeal the "pure food law" to prevent its passage.

And these are the men who have "borne the brunt of the fight for Democracy in this congressional district while Mr. Vandiver was drawing a comfortable salary as principal of the Cape Normal!"

Well, it might be unjust to further impose on these gentlemen who "have had very little return for their services to the party," and the Kicker would now suggest that these old war horses be permitted to go on the retired list and that Mr. Vandiver be forced to the front and made to bear the "brunt of the fight" for a while.

In order to get railroad transportation a newspaper must "stick to the party," and it doesn't matter a continental which party. A newspaper that can get the influence or endorsement of Jim Selbert and Sam Cook on the Democratic side, or Dick Kerens and Tom Atkins on the Republican side, can not only get a free pass for himself and family, but a special train with dining and sleeping car attachments, if desired.

On several occasions the lower house of congress has voted to elect United States Senators by a direct vote of the people; but the measure was defeated in the senate. Isn't it a little strange that senators will thus admit they are afraid of the people?

Republicans Meet.

Persuant to call the Republican committeemen met at the court house last Saturday. We were not furnished with a copy of the proceedings, but learn that Chas. L. Proffit was chosen temporary chairman and Charley Harrie, secretary, and April 3 fixed as the date for a mass convention at Morley where reorganization will take place. Delegates to the State and congressional conventions will also be selected at Morley.

AS TO RAILROAD PASSES.

Brother Smith, of the Record, squirmed out of his ability to have "railroad passes to burn" in the only way possible—without giving the snap away. As a starter he says "almost any reputable newspaper" can get free passes for its editor. No doubt of it. Huffman, of the Sikeston Herald; Gresham, of the Democrat, and Smith, of the Record, all have passes. All conduct "reputable newspapers." The Kicker is the only disreputable paper in the county—according to the standard set by Bill Phelps, Dick Kerens and their "funkies."

But Brother Smith is charitable and does not condemn the Kicker man to everlasting walking. He says that only "established papers" are entitled to railroad transportation, and that "if the Kicker lives long enough" its editor can secure recognition from railroads.

To the ordinary mind such a statement would seem encouraging. But when the writer thinks back at his experience on the Newsboy, then all hope fades. In 1895 the writer was a strong agitator of the Pettie Springs convention and advocated the overthrow of Dave Francis, C. C. Maffit and the whole gold bug contingent who were then at the head of the party—just as he is now advocating the overthrow of Phelps, Selbert, Cook & Co. Bro. Smith, like Joe Russell, had "some doubt" about it, and the Sikeston paper came out squarely for gold. It was not until John E. Marshall announced as a candidate for the legislature that the tin horn capitalists of the county, and their organs, declared for silver.

Prior to 1895 the writer had a "reputable newspaper" and could get passes to go anywhere. He defended Francis and Maffit and the rest of the "Democratic party" and was permitted to sit on the platform when the spell-binders came around, while the common herd had to squat on benches or stand up. But when his eyes finally opened, and he discovered that there was no difference between Cleveland-Francis Democracy and Hanna-Kerens Republicanism, and so announced in his paper, then the Newsboy lost its standing as a "reputable newspaper" and so remained until 1899, when "Brown" furnished the Hon. W. Gordon Kapp with money to come down and buy the plant.

The man who imagines that he can fool his readers into believing that railroad corporations furnish free transportation to newspapers in exchange for advertising places a very low estimate upon the intelligence of his readers. Of what benefit could an advertisement in the Benton Record or the Kicker be to the Iron Mountain railroad? If anyone wants information he goes or writes to the station agent. Excursions and the like are advertised by scattering hand bills.

Mr. Smith lives in Charleston and does business here. The fare to Charleston and return is \$1.40. He makes from one to three trips per week. Besides these trips he makes trips regularly to Commerce, to Oran, to Morley, to Moorhouse, etc. Hence it will not be far wrong to estimate that his railroad fares, if paid in cash, would amount to something like five dollars per week. In addition to this he visits St. Louis and other cities. With his family he visited Buffalo and New Orleans during the past year! It might be well to have him explain when and where and how he did the "advertising" to pay for all this?

And how is it about us hayseeds who have to pay for riding? Do we not have to pay for the multitude that ride free? Is it any wonder that when a measure is introduced in the legislature to reduce railroad, telegraph and express rates the free pass brigade fear that the passage of such a measure will "cut down accommodations?"

FOR SALE—A good farm of 192 acres—100 in cultivation—Good 2-story frame dwelling, granary, barn, plenty of good water and all modern conveniences. Within 30 minutes' drive of either Oran, New Hamburg or Benton. For further information apply at the Kicker office. 8tf.

Strayed or Stolen.

Disappeared from near Johnstone Land Co's mill, about the last of December, a small bay horse poney, about ten years old, with main cut off. A liberal reward will be paid for information leading to his recovery. 10-4 D. H. HARPER, Commerce, Mo.

Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that letters of administration upon the estate of John Miller, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the clerk of the Probate Court of Scott county, Missouri, in and to wit, bearing date the first day of January, 1901. All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance within one year from the date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate, and if said claims be not exhibited within two years from the date of the publication of this notice they will be forever barred. GEORGE MIER, Administrator.

Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that letters of administration upon the estate of George W. Rust, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the clerk of the Probate Court of Scott county, Missouri, in and to wit, bearing date the first day of January, 1901. All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance within one year from the date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate, and if said claims be not exhibited within two years from the date of the publication of this notice they will be forever barred. E. J. HALL, Administrator.

Removal Sale!

Biggest thing that ever Happened!

Within the next 30 days we must Close Out every yard of Dry Goods, every Suit of Clothes, and every pair of Shoes in our Store. The entire Stock will be sold at Cost and under Cost.

Prices are Cut Right and Left and Down the Middle, REGARDLESS OF VALUE.

Now is the Time and this is the Place to Save Your Money.

STOCK MUST BE SOLD. Come and get these Snaps.

Clothing.		Dry Goods.	
Extra Fine Tailor Made Suits, sold regularly at \$15, now go at only.....	\$ 8.00	Calico, Best Indigo Blue, per yard.....	.24
Good \$6.00 Suits, all colors, now going at.....	4.50	Calico, light colors, per yard.....	.24
Fine Light Colored Suits, were \$12, now only.....	7.50	Blended Domestic, per yard.....	.10
Good 7.00 Suits, any color, cut to.....	3.50	Worsted Dress Goods, all colors, per yard.....	.20
Good 6.00 Suits, any color—take 'em along at an even half.....	3.00	Percale, regular 8c goods, any color.....	.06
Boys' good \$4.00 Suits cut to only.....	2.00	Fine 8c Cotton Goods, per yard.....	.06
Small boys' suits, 4 to 10 years, Suits worth \$2; today at.....	1.25	Bed Ticking per yard.....	.13
The \$1.50 kind now going at.....	.75	Cottonade pants goods at.....	.10
Boys' Knee Pants, large stock, all sizes, all colors, take your choice at, per pair.....	.15	Cashmere dress goods, 5c, reduced to.....	.22
Men's silk striped pants, regular price \$1.50, now.....	.75	The best Turkey Red Tablecloth, worth 50c now, per yard.....	.25
500 pairs, worth \$1.75 to 2.25, now 1.15 to.....	1.75	Cotton Flannel, well worth 6c and 7c, now.....	.04 1/2
Overalls, any color, per pair.....	.25	Good Window Shades at.....	.10
Men's cotton goods pants, worth a dollar, now go at.....	.35	Ladies' High Necked underwear.....	.05
Men's fine Ties Underwear now per suit.....	.35	100 Ladies' Shirt Waists, worth 50c, closing out.....	.20
Laundried Dress Shirts, worth 75c, going at.....	.35	75 Ladies' Silk Shirts, worth \$2.50 and \$4.00, now going at.....	2.50
Men's Working Shirts, any color, worth 50c, going at.....	.25	Ribbons from 1c to 5c per yard—worth double	

Come early and get First Choice from a NEW STOCK OF WINTER GOODS! GRAND - LEADER, KELSO.

HER FOX TERRIER.

Rich Practical Joke Played on a Feminine Dog Lover.

A young lady visitor in Avondale was the victim of a good practical joke, which she tells with great relish. She was expecting a fine fox terrier to be sent her by a friend, who raised the thoroughbred. One evening when she came home her father said: "Your pup is in the barn. It came after tea." She went out, and there was the dog, dirty, mangy-looking and indifferent. And there was the express box. She attributed his condition to the trip. Early the next morning her brothers and the neighboring boys got her a bathtub and scrubbed the pup until he was white as snow. But in the afternoon, when she went to see him, he was the most indifferent dog in the world and paid no attention to her and showed no interest in the world. The family's interest and smiles aroused her curiosity, and before she had gone far she found that the pup was blind in one eye and deaf as a stone in both ears. To shorten the story, the mischievous brothers had found a tramp dog and fixed up the joke. And now in town she is subjected to jokes and jokes about her dog Cricket. — Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

MADE HIS GIRL "COUGH UP."

Young Man Took Her to Church, Then Passed the Basket.

A well-known young hotel clerk of this city was discovered in church not very long ago by one of the wardens or deacons, and was pressed into service to help take up the collection. On leaving the pew to engage in the novel work he hastily gave a quarter to his best girl to deposit in the plate when he reached her location, but when the time arrived she either got stage fright or else was overcome by the sight of her "young man" doing so nicely, for she never made a move to "ante."

The Doctor's Opinion.

A story is told of a physician in China who had mismanaged a case, whereupon the indignant family seized him and tied him up, but in the night he managed to free himself and escaped by swimming a river which cut off pursuit. When he reached home he found his son, who had just begun to study medicine, poring over his books. He wrung out his wet clothes and, turning to the student, said, gravely: "My son, don't be in a hurry with your books; the first and most important thing is to learn to swim."

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

The next issue of the Scott County Kicker will be as Crisp and Newsy as any edition that has yet appeared.

IT WILL APPEAR ON FEBRUARY 1. You Can't Afford to Miss It.

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